Government to maintain the special status of the State under Article 370 had been reiterated and it had been stated that it shall be the endeavour of the government to strengthen, within the Constitution, the autonomy of the State of Jammu & Kashmir, keeping in view the aspirations of the people belonging to all the three regions of the State. The commitment of the Government to the full implementation of the Agreement reached in 1975 was reiterated alongwith a further statement that the Government would have no objection to the restoration of the nomenclature of "Wazir-e-Azam" and "Sadar-e-Riyasat", if the State Legislature were to take action for amending the State Constitution for the purpose. The emphasis and focussed attention given by the Government on issues of development in the State, the need for time bound revival of the State's economy and the commitment of the Government to formulate further financial and development benefits for the State were also brought out in the Statement. The policy and approach of the Government, as brought out in the Statement, will remain, irrespective of when the elections may be held.

There have been diverse reactions, among various sections of the people, political groups and in the media to the Statement referred to above. The Government has continued to maintain that it is open to dialogue and discussions with various individuals and groups with the aim of building up an environment and further consolidating the situation in the State, so that peace and normalcy can be restored and a democratice and representative Government brought about through free and fair elections at the earliest. Such dialogue and discussions could also include issues pertaining to the question of autonomy as already mentioned in the Statement of the Prime Minister. The Government shall continue to follow this approach and pursue its efforts towards achieving the above objective and there shall be no let-up in our efforts in this regard.

HIV Cases in North-Eastern States

443. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increasing drug abuse is the main reason for HIV in the N.E. States; if so, whether Government have undertaken any survey during the past five years to estimate the extent of drug abuse in each of the NE States and what are the findings; if not, whether any such survey will be conducted;

(b) what is the estimated population in each NE State affected by HIV and the number of deaths during the past three years; and

(c) whether Government have made efforts to monitor the source of drugs and the details of preventive measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir. No national level population survey has been carried out with regard to drug abuse in the country including N.E. States.

(b) For the period ending 31.10.1995 from North Eastern States 4512 HIV positive cases and 25 AIDS deaths have been reported.

(c) As per Narcotics Control Bureau open border on Indo-Myanmar is potential source of drug trafficking and the Bureau is seized of the problem.